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**Department of Commerce and Insurance
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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**UNREGISTERED CREDIT REPAIR COMPANIES ORDERED TO STOP UNLAWFUL
CONDUCT**

An Atlanta man and his three companies offering "credit repair services" to Tennesseans via posted signs, the telephone, the Internet, and credit repair seminars have been ordered to stop any further unlawful business in Tennessee and to refund consumers.

Davidson County Circuit Court Judge Haynes has ordered a default judgment after Anthony "Tony" Thomas and the other defendants failed to respond to the State's complaint filed in November 2007. The defendants were all found in contempt for failing to comply with a court-ordered temporary injunction in April 2008. Neither Thomas nor counsel for any of the defendants appeared at the default judgment hearing.

"All Tennesseans are concerned about their credit rating, especially in this difficult economy. However, many so-called credit repair offers are of little or no value and some are simply fraudulent," said Attorney General Bob Cooper. "We are pleased that the court has ordered these defendants to stop engaging in unlawful conduct."

The State's lawsuit alleged that Thomas maintained several credit repair businesses under various names including ExpyFi, LLC, which also featured an Internet site, www.expyfi.com; CreditMax Financial, LLC; and Credit Phd., Inc. The suit further alleged that defendants offered

these services to consumers in Tennessee without a registered bond to conduct credit repair services and violated both the Tennessee Consumer Protection Act and the Tennessee Credit Services Businesses Act. Under the Tennessee Credit Services Businesses Act, all credit services businesses, whether an individual or a company, must register a \$100,000 bond with the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance to do business in Tennessee.

“We want Tennesseans to be aware that they can take steps to repair their credit with the many free government websites and resources that are available,” stated Mary Clement, Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs. “We urge consumers to use extra caution when seeking advice about managing their debt, and to go to our website to determine if they are working with a Tennessee bonded credit repair company.”

More information on self-help credit repair can be found at <http://www.ftc.gov/cvp/online/pubs/credit/repair.shtm>.

Judge Haynes granted the State’s default judgment ordering Thomas to pay restitution for identified consumers and pay civil penalties and costs of investigation to the State.

Interstate exit ramp signs in Nashville and Memphis stating, “ RAISE CREDIT SCORES to 700+” led consumers to an 800 number and ExpyFi’s website featuring a video of Thomas claiming their credit repair services could “help your situation, no matter how bleak, no matter how dismal....” Defendants’ website also stated that “No other company or individual can help RAISE CREDIT SCORES the way ExpyFi can.” Defendants also offered “free” seminars in Tennessee where they sold consumers a “credit restoration kit” for \$69.

Thomas held group seminars at the East Memphis Marriott hotel, the Top of the Line Banquet Hall in Memphis, and the Holiday Inn Express in downtown Nashville. He may also have conducted one-on-one sessions for some consumers. Consumers who attended these seminars and/or purchased credit repair services from Thomas, ExpyFi, Credit Max, Credit Phd., or any other unregistered business should contact the Division of Consumer Affairs at <http://www.state.tn.us/consumer/> or by calling (615)741-4737 or (toll-free inside Tennessee) at 1-800-342-8385.

For more information on this lawsuit, please visit the Attorney General’s website at www.attorneygeneral.state.tn.us.